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### Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for ENV 1003 (Fundamentals of Ecology-lecture and recitation)

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*CUNY Bernard M Baruch College*

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# ENV 1003: Fundamentals of Ecology (STRL)

Fall 2018

*3 credit course*

## *Lecture*

Tuesday, Thursdays, 5:40 - 6:30 PM

## *Recitation*

Section STRA

Tuesday, Thursdays 3:20 - 3:45 PM

**Lecture & Recitation Instructor:** Rebecca Kulp, PhD

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursdays 2-3 pm and by appointments

E-mail:

### Course Description:

**FROM REGISTRAR:** Fundamentals of Ecology explores ecological characteristics and ecosystem processes through an evolutionary context. The course will demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of the field of ecology by highlighting its significance to current environmental issues and the interconnectedness of the environment around us.

**From the instructor:** This course introduces students to not only to ecological terms and concepts, but demonstrates how the scientific process adds new knowledge to the field. Through recitation, you will be able to explore the many platforms science gets communicated to the community, and decide for yourself whether you trust how the information is being presented.

### Course Objectives (Learning Goals)

- 1) Students will be introduced to the processes controlling and linking the dynamics of individuals, populations, communities, and ecosystems and be able to **describe** these processes and **explain** links among them.
- 2) Students will be able to **apply** this information in **discussing** the impacts of human and natural change on ecological communities.
- 3) Students will be able to use mathematical and conceptual models to **predict** impacts of change on behavior, populations, communities, and ecosystems.

All of the above concepts will be considered in relationship to the management and restoration of natural resources in the New York area and beyond. By the end of this course, you should be able **discuss** the complex linkages among biotic and abiotic factors that impact natural communities, **explain** how these factors may be measured, and **predict** impacts of change.

### Course Structure

**The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion activities.**



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**Lectures:** Lectures will parallel and supplement the material in the required readings. That is, some parts of the introductions will elaborate on material presented in the course materials, whereas other parts will consist of novel material that is not covered on the site.

**Lecture-based readings:** You will have suggested readings available from the course website and possibly other material. **While generally this material is meant to reinforce topics covered in-class, material from these readings may appear on the exams even though it may NOT be covered in lecture.**

**Recitation:** Recitation is a chance to review and expand on concepts that are introduced in lecture. You'll engage in discussions with your instructor and classmates on articles from various venues, be able to ask questions about homework and exams, and learn more about the scientific process and how this related to the field of ecology. **Grades earned in recitation will count towards your overall grade.**

**Recitation-based readings:** You will have assigned readings available from the course website and possibly other material. You will need to come to recitation having already completed the assigned reading and ready to discuss it. **Material from these assignments may have an associated written reflection to be handed in via Blackboard.**

**Recitation-based discussions:** We will discuss the relevance of course topics to contemporary events as they occur and through directed readings. You will need to come to recitation having already completed the assigned reading and ready to discuss it.

**Course Materials and Tools:** ENV1003 and ENV1004 are part of the new zero-textbook initiative at CUNY. Primary course material (text links, lecture slides) is available @ <https://sites.google.com/view/env10031004>.

Material on the online course website is viewable from desktop, laptop, or mobile devices. Other assigned material (articles, papers) will be freely available from CUNY. We'll discuss finding articles in class. You should not have to purchase any resources, so let me know if you need help finding items.

The lecture instructor will be modifying the google slides available on each “page” of the course website. Links to the updated powerpoint slides will posted no later than one day after it was given in lecture on the ENV1003L Blackboard link under “ENV1003L Updated Presentations” content folder.

**Additional Course Materials:** A laptop (or suitable internet device) will be needed for completing assignments. If you do not own a laptop, the University has a [laptop loan](#) program.

## **Lecture and Recitation Coursework**

### ***Lecture***

**Exams (2):** Exams will cover the assigned readings and class material up to the day of the exam (i.e, the final exam will be cumulative). **The final exam grade will replace the midterm grade if that benefits the student.**

**Classwork assignments (in-class participation):** In-class partition will be used to assess the class's understanding of a concept. This will be a scaled grade such that it will count equally towards the Lecture Assignments grade as each homework assignment.

**Classwork assignments (homework):** The lecture homework assignments will be posted in the Homeworks content folder of ENV1003L Blackboard link. The blackboard assignments will need to be completed

and handed in via blackboard. These will all be based on lecture material covered in class. The lecture instructor will be handling all material covered in lecture and any homework assignments. Please see your lecture instructor with clarifications related to lecture homework assignments prior to their due date. **In general, lecture homework will be made available on the day the lecture topic is introduced and due at least one day after the last day the lecture topic is finished.**

### ***Recitation***

**Classwork & Blackboard assignments:** Classwork will take place in class; one part of this grade will be a group presentation. The blackboard assignments will need to be completed and handed in via blackboard. These will all be reflection-based assignments relating to the articles discussed in recitation. **In general, reflection-based assignments will be due one week after the article was discussed in recitation.**

### ***Blackboard assignment submission policies***

All assignments will be submitted or facilitated via Blackboard; assignments will **not** be accepted via email.

**Nothing** submitted past the deadline will be graded (see the course policies on late assignments below for further details)

**Attempts will be made to announce assignments and due dates in class, but any announcements posted via Blackboard are considered final and override any other information unless otherwise noted in writing.** It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for new assignments.

Blackboard will give you a notification if an assignment was submitted correctly. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be marked late and will not be graded.

Students can view their grade under Tools on the Blackboard website. If you would like to view the breakdown of your grade or any comments associated with a written assignment, then click on the grade value in the "My Grades" tool option. If you do not see a number/letter grade in an area on Blackboard, then follow [this link](#) of what it might mean.

The CUNY Blackboard site sometimes becomes unavailable due to regular maintenance. It is the student's responsibility to pay attention to the CUNY Blackboard-based announcements on their Blackboard home page.

### **Evaluation and Workload:**

**The following categories will determine the grade you earn for ENV1003 course.**

#### *Lecture Exams*

Lecture Exam I:	20%
Lecture Exam II:	30%

#### *Lecture and Recitation Assignments*

50% (25% Lecture & 25% Recitation)

#### Course Total:

100%

**The second exam (i.e. Final exam) grade will replace the grade from the first (i.e. Midterm exam) if that benefits the student.**

The lowest grade from the Lecture and Recitation Assignments category will be dropped, and the remaining assignments will be equally weighted to represent 50% of grade.

The class assignments and due dates may change during the semester, depending on the class's progress. For the most up-to-date list of assignments refer to the "[List of Lecture + Recitation Assignments](#)" also linked on Blackboard.

**Grading Scale (%):**

A	93-100	A-	90-92.9		
B+	87.1-89.9	B	83-87	B-	80-82.9
C+	77.1-79.9	C	73-77	C-	70-72.9
D+	65-69.9	D	60-64.9		
F	0-59.9				

See the "[PossibleGrades Calculations](#)" for an example of grade breakdown for an A-, B-, and C-.

**Course Policies**

These policies are based on ideas of fairness and respect.

**Grading Policies:** Final course grades are non-negotiable and will **NOT** be curved or rounded in any way. Grades for individual assignments may or may not be curved depending on the class results. If a curve is instituted, the lecture instructor will determine a fair and reasonable curve which will be applied to each individual's grade.

Grade changes will be made only to correct clerical errors. **Complaints about grades on individual assignments must be submitted in writing within a week following the return of the relevant assignment. Only reasonable and well-justified complaints will be considered.**

**Attendance policy:** Students are responsible for material covered during class. Attendance may be included in grading via in-class discussions or activities.

If a student is observing a religious holiday on a day where when in-class work is occurring, then the student needs to notify the lecturer and recitation instructor within the first week of class to have the opportunity to make up any missed work.

If a student is ill, they should not come to class. A doctor's note is needed to excuse the student from in-class work on the day they were ill and unable to come to class.

A doctor's note and religious observance **will not** excuse students from out-of-class assignments, since students will be given ample notice on when assignments are due.

**Missed Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given for the midterm or final. If the midterm is missed, then the grade earned on the final exam will be scaled to the midterm grade. Because of this, the final exam grade may also replace the midterm exam grade if that benefits a student. **Completion of the final exam is required to pass the course.**

**Late Homework and Classwork:** Late homework and classwork **will not** be accepted. Since it will not be graded, the student will be unable to access the graded attempt via Blackboard and will have to come to office hours to discuss any questions.

***Disability or crisis issues:*** Students with disabilities may receive assistance and reasonable accommodations to enable them to participate fully and equally in courses at Baruch College. To establish the accommodations appropriate for each student, please alert your instructor to your needs and contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. For more information contact Lillian Shmulevich, Assistant Director of this office in B2271 or at (646) 3124590.

If a major issue arises during the semester (family death, accident, etc.) please let me, the Departmental office, (506, 17 Lexington Avenue Building) or the Student Affairs office (deanofstudents@baruch.cuny.edu, 646-312-4570) know so efforts can be made to aid you during this time.

***Academic Integrity:*** The instructors fully support Baruch College's policy on Academic Honesty, which states, in part:

**"Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.** Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college's educational mission and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Baruch students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned. "

Academic sanctions in this class will range from a D or F on the section or assignment to a D or F in this course and are at the discretion of the instructors. A report of suspected academic dishonesty will be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. Additional information and definitions can be found at [http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html)

***Personal responsibilities and class etiquette:*** The instructors understand everyone's time is valuable and that you (or someone) are (is) paying for you to pursue a higher education degree, which marks you as having achieved a goal. In light of this:

- The instructors' responsibility and goal is ***to guide students, as active learners, in becoming critical thinkers who can evaluate and assimilate material from across the spectrum of biology and connect it to other disciplines and their everyday life.*** We will accomplish this through class activities, and will **fairly** evaluate your progress in this area through the methods noted above. We will **respect** your time and effort by attempting to start on time, promptly respond to emails (within 48 hours) and grade assignments (less than 1 week from receipt), being available for help through office hour or directly before/after class, and attempting to make class as engaging and relevant as possible. We will regularly seek feedback in these areas through short surveys administered through Blackboard.
- Your responsibility is to be an active, engaged student who does not detract from class activities. **We will utilize an inverted classroom or discussion-based approach as much as possible, so we expect you to arrive prepared for class.** Please arrive on time and plan to stay **engaged** for the entire class. Take part in discussions, ask questions as needed, and stay off personal devices (phones, facebook, etc). **Distracting activities will be noted and, if continued, will lead to a dismissal from class. All work you submit in any form must be your own or properly attributed.**

### **Additional Information: Environmental Sciences at Baruch College**

***Biological Sciences Major:*** The Department of Natural Sciences offers a major in biological sciences that allow students to choose from a diversity of courses. Following an introductory series of courses focused on building a firm foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry,

physics, genetics) and math, students can choose from a range of elective courses and may focus on courses related to environmental science, ecology, and conservation and sustainability.

***Tier III minor in Environmental Sustainability:*** The Department of Natural Sciences offers a minor in environmental sustainability for students that wish to pursue general intellectual interests or specific career objectives. For example, business students may improve their marketability with knowledge of current issues in environmental sustainability, and public affairs or pre-law students may gain knowledge for future specialization in environmental law or policy. For the environmental sustainability Tier III minor, students take two environmentally-themed, interdisciplinary courses at the 3000 level or above followed by the capstone course, ENV 4900—Topics in Environmental Science.

***The Arts and Sciences Ad Hoc Major in Natural Science Areas:*** It is also possible to design an ad hoc major that combines ENV courses with additional sciences and courses in other fields. Please inquire for more information.

**More information on getting involved in research and classes is available @**  
**[https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/environmentalscience/join\\_us/](https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/environmentalscience/join_us/)**

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